

Issue Paper for Oregon Technical Advisory Committee

Topic:	EQIP policy recommendation for eligibility of large confined livestock operations	
Presenter / Sponsor(s):	Bill White, NRCS, Leader for Programs, & Dave Dishman, NRCS Leader for Implementation	
Issue Statement:	The new EQIP rules under the new Farm Bill no longer limit financial assistance to confined livestock operations of 1000 or less animal units. Under the new Farm Bill EQIP funding will be significantly higher than in the past, as will be total and annual contract funding. This is a significant opportunity for Oregon to address water quality concerns. To most effectively prioritize workload and funding related to confined livestock operations, Oregon should identify policy as to type and size of operation, kind of assistance (TA& FA or FA only), and role for third party vendors.	
Action Required:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Review & Discussion <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Advice Requested	<input type="checkbox"/> Information <input type="checkbox"/> Other:: _____
Background:	With limited financial resources or funding in EQIP, intent of Congress was to provide funding only to producers unable to otherwise afford to install animal waste facilities, i.e., the small to moderate size operations. However in the 1997, EQIP Manual the NRCS state conservationist was allowed to grant a waiver of this limit and fund larger size operations. The manual identified several considerations when evaluating a waiver: cost effectiveness, ability to pay, significance of the resource concern, implementation of environmental laws and regulations, characteristics of modern operations, and relative size of operation. Emphasis was to be placed on cost effectiveness and ability to pay.	
Progress / Current Status:	Oregon has limited EQIP funding to confined livestock operations of 1000 or fewer animal units as specified in the EQIP rules of 1997. To date no waivers have been requested in Oregon; however, this need has been discussed.	
Technical / Staff Recommendation:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ State policy will be least restrictive. ▪ OTAC shall provide advice in regard to the eligible size of confined livestock operation and the use (if needed) for waiver, ▪ Local determination shall consider availability of EQIP funds and technical assistance, competing workload, Basin priorities and resource concerns, applicant's ability to pay, and role of third party vendors. ▪ Basin work group shall select practices to be funded, cost lists, cost share rates, incentive payments and ranking criteria to focus on the targeted size and type of confined livestock operations. ▪ Promote the use of third party vendors where appropriate. 	
Attachment:		